

## **APPENDIX C**

### **NATURAL HERITAGE GLOSSARY**

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### **Natural Heritage Inventory Information**

The North Carolina Natural Heritage Program of the Division of Parks and Recreation inventories, catalogues, and facilitates protection of the rarest and the most outstanding elements of the natural diversity of our state. These elements of natural diversity include those plants and animals which are so rare or natural areas which are so significant that they merit special consideration as land-use decisions are made.

### **Registered Natural Heritage Area**

A Registered Natural Heritage Area is a natural area of special ecological significance which is protected through a voluntary agreement between a landowner and the Department of Environment, Health, and Natural Resources. These areas may contain one or more occurrences of rare species or may contain an outstanding example of a natural community. Registry of a natural area does not create a right of public access.

### **Dedicated Natural Heritage Area**

A *Dedicated Natural Heritage Area* is a natural area of special ecological significance which is protected through a voluntary agreement between a landowner and the Department of Environment, Health, and Natural Resources. These areas may contain one or more occurrences of rare species or may contain an outstanding example of a natural community. Dedication of a natural area is legally binding; it does not create a right of public access.

### **Number of Element Occurrences**

Information about the occurrences of North Carolina's elements of natural diversity is compiled by the Natural Heritage Program. These elements of diversity may be rare species or exemplary examples of North Carolina's natural community types. Lists of the elements of diversity known from each county are available from the Natural Heritage Program.

### **Number of Listed Species**

Listed species are those rare species which have been identified as being endangered or threatened with extinction by the US Fish and Wildlife Service, the Plant Conservation Program of the North Carolina Department of Agriculture, or the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission. In 1995, 205 species in North Carolina were listed as endangered or threatened.

### **Status of County-wide Natural Area Inventory**

The Natural Heritage Program conducts county-wide inventories for significant natural areas. These inventories are usually conducted in cooperation with local citizen organizations and/or local governments. In 1995, 55 inventories were either completed or underway. Information about the county natural area inventories can be obtained from the Natural Heritage Program.